

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-74 (Cancelled)

Claim 75 (New): A method for stimulating hair growth or for ameliorating hair loss comprising:

administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a composition containing a polynucleotide construct comprising:

- (a) an isolated nucleic acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, and
 - (b) a keratinocyte specific promoter;
- wherein the isolated nucleic acid sequence is under the control of said promoter.

Claim 76 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said isolated nucleic acid sequence is at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 77 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said isolated nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 78 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said isolated nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 79 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said isolated nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 80 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said isolated nucleic acid sequence encodes a signal peptide or leader sequence different than that consisting of amino acid residues 1 to 48 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 81 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said promoter comprises a K14 expression cassette.

Claim 82 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said composition comprises a pharmaceutically or cosmetically acceptable carrier.

Claim 83 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said composition comprises a pharmaceutically or cosmetically acceptable carrier and at least one saponin.

Claim 84 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said composition as administered *ex vivo* or *in vivo* to the scalp or skin of said subject.

Claim 85 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said subject is a non-human mammal.

Claim 86 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said subject is a non-human mammal selected from the group consisting of a dog, a cat, a horse, a rabbit, a sheep, a camel, a mouse, a rat, an alpaca, a vicuna, a guanaco and a llama.

Claim 87 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said mammal is human.

Claim 88 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said subject is in need of stimulation of hair growth.

Claim 89 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said subject is in need of amelioration of hair loss.

Claim 90 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said subject suffers from a genetically determined form of hair loss.

Claim 91 (New): The method of claim 75, wherein said subject suffers from acquired form of hair loss.

Claim 92 (New 31): The method of claim 75, wherein said subject suffers from a form of hair loss selected from the group consisting of alopecia areata, alopecia subtotalis, alopecia totalis, trichotillomania, or drug induced alopecia.

Claim 93 (New): A method for stimulating hair growth or for ameliorating hair loss comprising:

administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising:

a polynucleotide construct, and

at least one saponin;

wherein said polynucleotide construct comprises:

(a) an isolated nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 3, and

(b) a regulatory element that specifically expresses said isolated polynucleotide sequence in keratinocytes;

wherein the isolated nucleic acid sequence is under the control of said regulatory element.

Claim 94 (New): The method of claim 91, wherein said polynucleotide construct comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 and a K14 expression cassette.